

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3932

E.O. 11652: GDS 31-12-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: BURDEN SHARING; MEETING OF THE STUDY GROUP

BEGIN SUMMARY. STUDY GROUP ON FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE STATIONING OF FORCES ON THE TERRITORY OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES (FRANCE AS WELL AS PORTUGAL, LUXEMBOURG AND ICELAND ABSENT) HELD ITS FIRST MEETING AUGUST 21, 1973, ON THE VERIFICATION OF DATA PROVIDED BY THE U.S. ONLY GREECE AND NORWAY WERE READY TO ACCEPT DATA ON BOTH US RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR FY 72, OTHER COUNTRIES BEING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. NEXT MEETING ON DATA VERIFICATION SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND OTHER COUNTRIES' EXPERTS. END SUMMARY.

1. MEETING OPENED WITH A TIME-CONSUMING DISCUSSION, LED BY THE UK AND FRG AND SUPPORTED BY ITALY AND BELGIUM, OF THE DECISION SHEET OF THE FIRST "BUSINESS MEETING" OF THE GROUP ON AUGUST 9. DISCUSSION CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THE FACT THAT THE UK AND GERMANY WISH TO CONSIDER US MILITARY BOP SITUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM OF THE US, INCLUDING FUTURE TRENDS. UK ALSO SEEKS SOME CONSIDERATION OF ITS MILITARY BOP SITUATION-APPARENTLY AS MEANS OF LIMITING ITS LIABILITY IN ANY BURDENSHARING ARRANGEMENTS THAT MAY BE AGREED ON.

2. ALTHOUGH US DATA ON MILITARY BOP WAS DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER
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DELEGATIONS ON AUGUST 1, MOST COUNTRIES REPORTED THEY WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON WHETHER THEY COULD ACCEPT OUR FIGURES. ONLY GREECE AND NORWAY WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT US DATA ON EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS FOR FY 1972. ITALIAN REP INDICATED THAT WORD FROM ROME

WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL AFTER AUGUST HOLIDAYS.

3. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WITHOUT NOTICEABLE PROGRESS, HUMPHREYS SET ANOTHER MEETING ON DATA VERIFICATION FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 24. FIVE DELEGATIONS SCHEDULED CONSULTATIONS WITH US EXPERTS FOR TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS ABOUT DATA WE SUBMITTED. SOME DELEGATIONS WILL REQUEST NATIONAL DATA FROM CAPITALS ON THEIR PURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM PRIVATE US FIRMS WHICH ARE NOT REFLECTED IN FIGURES US PROVIDED.

4. COMMENT: WE FOUND THE GENERAL ATTITUDE DURING THE MEETING TO BE ONE OF RELUCTANCE EVEN TO INDICATE A DATE BY WHICH POSITION ON US DATA WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. CARSTENS (NETHERLANDS) INDICATED PRIVATELY TO PRENDERGAST THAT THE NETHERLANDS WAS WAITING THE OUTCOME OF MOD VREDELING'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

5. REQUEST WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS ON WHETHER TO MODIFY RECEIPT COLUMN FOR COUNTRIES (UK AND NETHERLANDS STRONGEST POSSIBILITIES) WHICH PROVIDE FIGURES ON THEIR PURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN DIRECT TRANSACTIONS WITH US FIRMS. RUMSFELD

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